Animal Resources Team Newsletter

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Hopefully, you have discovered the ART Newsletter to be informative and useful in your on-going efforts to develop and improve your institute's disaster preparedness plan and training program. As with any fledgling publication, we always welcome noteworthy articles and information, so please feel free to offer your contributions and suggestions.

COOP UPDATE
(by Kerry Taylor)

As a prequel to the Y2K transition period over the New Year Holiday weekend, the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) will participate in an NIH and government-wide communication exercise scheduled for November 12th. The primary purpose of the exercise is to ensure that reliable lines of communication have been established between the Institutes and the NIH and ORS (COOP) Command Posts in buildings 10 and 31 respectively, as well as testing the links between NIH and the Department of Health and Human Services. The NIH Animal Resource Team Coordinator, Dr. Kerry Taylor, will be in place at the Command Post during the exercise, and members of the NIH Animal Resource Team will staff the Building 31 Command Post for the actual Y2K time period: now set as Dec 31, 1999 - Jan 3, 2000. Other Team members will either be on-site or readily available throughout the New Year's weekend. Although the reporting schedule is not yet confirmed, we anticipate that the procedures will mimic actual communications during Y2K, or any other disaster or emergency for that matter. The November exercise will be proactive, in that a designated IC representative (veterinarian or facility manager) will make telephone calls to the NIH ART Coordinator at predetermined times during that morning. Dr. Taylor will record responses and provide periodic reports to the NIH Disaster Recovery Coordinator. Although not an actual event, the exercise should provide the animal research community with an opportunity to test their emergency communication procedures. Stay tuned for more details! For more information (and a good web site to boot) see http://y2k.cit.nih.gov.

DISASTER RESPONSE PLANS

Now that the AAALAC Site Visit has come and gone (with very favorable results!) we can relax a bit and concentrate on fine-tuning our specific IC's emergency preparedness and response plan. The following questions may assist you in assessing your state of readiness for any emergency:

➡ Have appropriate SOPs been developed?
➡ Are personnel trained on SOPs and how to respond to the various emergencies as outlined in your institute's plan?
➡ Are the disaster response plan, associated checklists, and guidelines posted and quickly available in case of an emergency?
➡ Are emergency supplies and equipment identified and staged for ready access?
➡ Are you conducting on-going training and refresher classes for current employees, and providing basic information and/or training for new employees?

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS QUIZ
(by Doreen Bartlett)

We anticipate that each ART Newsletter will have some type of quiz related to disaster preparedness. Answers for today's challenge will be given in the next Newsletter. As always, feel free to submit your suggestions and/or questions for the next DPQ.

1. What does the acronym FEMA stand for?
2. What does the acronym DPAAC stand for?
3. What is your first concern in any emergency situation?
4. Why are our animal facilities required to have disaster plans?
5. True or False. Upon evacuation of the building, everyone is to meet immediately outside the building entrance so that their evacuation from the building can be accounted for.
6. When is the Y2K Command Post Exercise scheduled?
7. Does a Level I or Level III disaster have more disruption and damage associated with it?
8. What phone number do you dial for an emergency on the Bethesda NIH campus?
9. What are the first 3 things that you should do if you receive a bomb threat via a telephone call?
10. True or False. In a power outage, DES will handle all calls in the order received.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION
(by Kelly Prevost)

VRP has ordered and prepositioned clean, 55-gallon drums to store water for animal use over the New Year weekend. The drums will only be used if normal water supply is not available when Y2K descends upon us. They will be filled approximately 2 days prior to the New Year and stored in a cool area. Siphoning pumps will also be ordered to enable transfer of the water into water bottles or other appropriate containers as necessary. Note that we will be ordering sufficient <u>water and feed</u> for a potential 2-week disaster.

For Y2K readiness, now is the time to order flashlights and batteries from the NIH stock, in the event that facility lighting does not operate normally.

Also, ensure appropriate staff members actually have a key (in addition to a key card) which allows access to the facility in the event that card readers are nonfunctional.

SITUATION / SCENARIO
(by Alphie Cisar)

You are moving several NHPs (or other large animal species) from one facility to another. While preparing to unload the animals, the truck driver opens the truck to find that several animals have escaped from the transport cages. Some animals escape the confines of the truck and make it to nearby trees. What do you do?

E-mail your response to Dusty Rhodes at rhodesl@ninds.nih.gov. The ART will review all submissions, select the best reply, and publish the response and author's name in the next issue of the Newsletter.

IN THE NEWS

According to Mike Wendland, a Y2K expert and author of a free booklet, "Y2K: Help for Your Home PC," unless you have upgraded your operating system and the software that came on that computer recently, odds are you are not Y2K compliant. He states, "Backing up your data is the single most important thing you can do to prepare your PC for Y2K." He recommends a 3-step plan: 1) backup to make sure computer data is safe; 2) update with Y2K "fixes" for the computer operating system and application; and 3) protect with software that automatically backs up your files today, tomorrow and into the next millennium. You can call Iomega Corporation at 1-888-233-8566 or visit their Web site at http://www.iomega.com for more information.

Blockbuster video will offer members the opportunity to rent a new video documentary, "Preparing Wisely for the Next Millennium," free of charge at participating stores. The 40-minute video contains footage of commentary from more than 40 key business and government leaders discussing how to best prepare for the millennium, as well as information provided by the American Red Cross.

!!! HAPPY HALLOWEEN !!!